

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 14 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

1. to 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A printer for printing on a recording material using a printing head which ejects ink, said printer being communicably connectable with an information processing apparatus through communication means from which one or more commands are received, said printer comprising:

analyzing means for analyzing the command received from the information processing apparatus;

discriminating means for discriminating whether a cleaning operation is necessary before a printing operation, when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that the command is a notification of preparation before printing;

preparation means for effecting the cleaning operation for the printing head prior to the printing operation when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that the command is a notification of preparation before printing and discrimination by said discriminating means indicates that the cleaning operation is necessary; and

printing means for executing, when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that the command is print data, the printing operation on the basis of the print data.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A printer according to Claim 4, wherein the command is an interface signal exchanged with the information processing apparatus.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A printer according to Claim 4, wherein said preparation means effects suction recovery of said printing head.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A printing system comprising a printer for printing on a recording material using a printing head which ejects ink, an information processing apparatus, and communication means for communicably connecting said printer and said information processing apparatus, said printing system further comprising:

notifying means for sending a command for notifying said printer of a preparation before printing through said communicating means;

generating means for processing, after the preparation before printing notification of said notifying means, data to be printed to generate print data;

wherein said printer includes:

analyzing means for analyzing the command received from the information processing apparatus;

discriminating means for discriminating whether a cleaning operation is necessary before a printing operation, when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that the command is a notification of preparation before printing;

preparation means for effecting the cleaning operation for the printing head prior to the printing operation when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that the command is a notification of preparation before printing and discrimination by said discriminating means indicates that the cleaning operation is necessary; and

printing means for executing, when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that the command is print data, the printing operation on the basis of the print data.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A printing method for printing by a printer on a recording material using a printing head which ejects ink, said printer being communicably connectable with an information processing apparatus through communication means from which one or more commands are received, said method comprising:

an analyzing step of analyzing the command received from the information processing apparatus;

a discriminating step of discriminating whether a cleaning operation is necessary before a printing operation, when analysis by said analyzing step indicates that the command is a notification of a preparation before printing;

a preparation step of effecting the cleaning operation for the printing head prior to the printing operation when analysis of said analyzing step indicates that the command is a notification of preparation before printing and discrimination by said discriminating means indicates that the cleaning operation is necessary; and

a printing step of executing, when analysis of said analyzing step indicates that the command is print data, the printing operation on the basis of the print data.

13. (Previously Presented) A control method for a printing system comprising a printer for printing on a recording material using a printing head which ejects ink, an information processing apparatus, and communicating means for communicably connecting said printer and said information processing apparatus, said method comprising:

a notification step of sending a command for notifying said printer of a preparation before printing through said communicating means;

an analyzing step for analyzing the command received from the information processing apparatus;

a discriminating step for discriminating whether a cleaning operation is necessary before a printing operation, when analysis by said analyzing step indicates that the command is a notification of preparation before printing;

a preparation step for effecting the cleaning operation for the printing head prior to the printing operation when analysis by said analyzing step indicates that the command is a notification of preparation before printing and discrimination by said discriminating step indicates that the cleaning operation is necessary;

a generating step of processing, after the notification of said notifying step, data to be printed;

a sending step of sending the print data generated by said generating step to said printer through said communicating means; and

a printing step of executing the printing operation in accordance with print data sent by said sending step.

14. (Cancelled)